

Announcements

SERVING THIS WEEK

Organist: Kathy May Altar Committee: Anne Schumacher
Communion Committee: Becca Ligrow, Joanne Smith
Sunday 7:45am Elder: Lance Carus
Sunday 10:30am Elder: Erik Krueger
Wednesday 6:45pm Elder: Kent Franklin

LAST WEEK AT PEACE

Sun, December 12: Early - 120 Late - 97 Bible Class - N/A
Wednesday Advent Midweek, December 15 – 136 (8:00, 2:30 & 6:45)
Thurs, December 16: Communion Matins – 52 Coffee Break - 36

Altar Flowers are given by Bob and Geri Zaretske.

Sanctuary Candle is given in memory of John David

OFFERINGS:

Last Week's Offering

General fund:	\$ 10,125.00
(Loose Plate \$955; Gen. Env. \$9170)	
Capital Improvements fund:	\$ 400.00
Goehner Schl. fund:	\$ 75.00
Mercy fund:	\$ 150.00
Music fund:	\$ 100.00
Nigeria fund:	\$ 300.00
Last Week's Total:	\$ 11,150.00

TOTAL OFFERINGS GIVEN IN DECEMBER:

General funds received in December:	\$ 20,011.00
Capital Improvements funds received in Dec.:	\$ 500.00
Goehner Schl. funds received in Dec.:	\$ 75.00
Mercy funds received in December:	\$ 260.00
Music funds received in December:	\$ 100.00
Nigeria funds received in December:	\$ 300.00
	\$ 21,246.00

Peace Lutheran Church and Academy

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rorate Coeli (Rain down, you heavens)

December 19, 2021

THEME: REDEEMED TO BE HIS OWN

Priests and Levites were sent from Jerusalem to John the Baptist to inquire about his ministry and by what authority he was sent to preach and to baptize. The priests and Levites were custodians of the Old Testament temple worship and should have known what the Old Testament Scriptures and liturgy were preparing for. John clearly confessed that he was not the Christ, but rather “the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’” John quoted Isaiah the prophet that the priests and Levites might know that he was the promised forerunner who was sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah’s coming. John testified that the Messiah was the eternal Son of God by stating, “There stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me [or ranks higher than I], whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” By referring to the loosing of Messiah’s sandal strap, John testified that Jesus was the true Redeemer Kinsman of His people, who would exercise the right of redemption by laying His foot bare in His death upon the cross. By the shedding of His blood He would redeem His people from their sins and crush Satan under His bruised heel (Gen. 3:15). John’s testimony to Jesus and call to repentance continues to ring out today in faithful preaching that we might be prepared to receive Jesus in broken and contrite hearts.


ADVENT MIDWEEK DIVINE SERVICES—THE GIFT OF PRAYER

Wednesdays in Advent at 8:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

December 22: “Prayer for God’s Final Judgment” 2 Thess. 1:3-12

Guests—Welcome to our Divine Service! We are pleased that you are with us. If we can assist you in any way with questions about our confession of faith, spiritual struggles, understanding our liturgical service, or any other need, please let us know. It is our prayer that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will strengthen and comfort you. Before you leave this morning, please sign our guest register in the narthex.

Pastoral Care and Guests at the Lord’s Supper. We are concerned about the spiritual welfare of all who commune at the Lord’s Table. If you are a guest and desire to commune, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are not under church discipline in another congregation. In Christ, Pastor Bender



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The Rev. Peter C. Bender, Pastor — (262) 370-1189
The Rev. Gary V. Gehlbach, Asst. Pastor — (262) 325-3032
www.peacesussex.org
Divine Service: Sunday – 7:45 and 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday – 6:45 p.m.
Bible Class and Sunday School: Sunday – 9:15 a.m.

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD—*Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them in Your truth; Your Word is truth.” (John 17:17).* Each week the faithful gather to receive the Word of their Lord.

THIS WEEK:

- **Private Confession and Absolution:** *Sundays 6:30 to 7:00 a.m. or by appointment — Call Pastor at 262-246-3200 or 262-370-1189.*
- **Sunday:** **Divine Service** 7:45 & 10:30 — Advent 4
Bible Class 9:15 — The St. Peter Option
Lessons and Carols (Children's Choirs) 4:00
- **Monday:** **No Chapel – Chapel resumes January 3**
- **Tuesday:** **No Youth Catechesis – Class resumes January 4**
- **Wednesday:** **Advent Communion Service** at 8:00, 2:30, and 6:45
- **Thursday:** **No Chapel or Coffee Break Bible Study**
No Didache – Class resumes Thursday, January 6
- **Friday:** **No Chapel Matins**

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND FAMILY PRAYER AT HOME

This week's lesson: Christ's Birth Is Foretold to Joseph—Matt. 1:18-25
The next Family Prayer instructional meeting for parents and Sunday School teachers is Tuesday, January 4 at 6:30.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS SERIES: ST. PETER OPTION

This week's study focuses upon the Royal Priesthood of the Church.

DIDACHE DIVINE SERVICE FOR ADULT AND YOUTH CATECHESIS

Class resumes Thursday, January 6

31ST ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS TODAY AT 4

Today, Sunday, December 19 at 4 p.m., the Children's Choirs of Peace will lead our traditional Christmas Lessons and Carols Service.

EPIPHANY CHORAL DIVINE SERVICE

On Wednesday, January 5 at 6:45 p.m., the Senior Choir will lead an Epiphany Choral Divine Service with Holy Communion. This special choral service features Christmas and Epiphany music for the Choir and congregation in celebration of the visit of the Magi and the revelation of the Son of God as the Savior of all mankind.

Christmas Poinsettias for the Altar - Please sign-up to purchase poinsettias for the altar. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. A total of 15 are needed. \$12 each. Make check payable to Peace Lutheran Church.

Offering envelopes are available for pick up in the narthex. If you haven't picked up the annual report and membership directory, please do.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- **31st Annual Service of Lessons and Carols**, Sunday, December 19, at 4 p.m. featuring all the Children Choirs
- **Christmas Eve Divine Service** at 4:00 p.m.
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service** at 8:00 p.m.
- **Christmas Day Divine Service** at 9:30 a.m.
- **New Year's Eve Divine Service**, December 31 at 6:30 p.m. with individual absolution
- **New Year's Day Divine Service**, January 1 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Epiphany Choral Divine Service**, Wednesday, January 5 at 6:45, featuring the Senior Choir

NEWS AND NOTES

Special Congregational Assembly Call Meeting for the purpose of calling an Associate Pastor/Ordained Headmaster is scheduled for Sunday, January 2 at 9:15 a.m. The Boards of Elders and Education, working jointly over the past several months, are prepared to recommend to the congregation that we call a candidate from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, to be our Associate Pastor and Headmaster. All voting members of the congregation are encouraged to attend this call meeting.

Holiday Office Hours:

Office Closed: December 24, 27, and 31.

Office Open 8am-12pm: Tues–Thursday, December 28-30.

Parish Council meets Tuesday, December 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Sign-up charts for sanctuary candle and altar flowers for 2022 are posted on the board outside of the church kitchen. Please sign up to bring fresh flowers for the altar.

Save the date for the Academy Auction! The Academy Auction will be held on March 19th from 4-8:30pm at Lake Country Lutheran High School. Save the date on your calendar and plan to attend this exciting event.

Weekly Scrip Report: Week of 12-12-2021 (27 families participating)

Gross sales \$7,306.00

Profit paid to Academy \$116.82

Attendance – 345

Total profit this fiscal year \$2,133.75

Scrip orders this week cannot be guaranteed to arrive by Christmas.

No scrip order will be placed the week of December 26.

BP scrip cards are currently unavailable.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rorate Coeli (Rain down, you heavens)

December 19, 2021

Divine Service Setting Two, LSB p. 167

Please follow the order of service printed in the hymnal beginning on page 167. The propers for the day (readings, hymns) are listed below.

Hymn of Invocation 344

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Entrance Hymn 346

“When All the World Was Cursed”

Choir sings stanza 3

Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-19

A New Prophet Like Moses

Choral Response

“Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain” by Richard Gieseke

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
You who will bring the good news to Zion.
Lift up your voices and boldly proclaim:
“See the Lord God! He comes in power!”
Write down the vision, inscribe it on tablets,
Ready for a herald to carry it swiftly.
Soon, very soon He will come to you.
Live by faith, my righteous ones!

Epistle Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord and be anxious for nothing.

Alleluia-Verse Sung by the choir

Alleluia! You are my help and my deliverer;
Do not delay, O my God! Alleluia!

(Ps. 40:17b)

Holy Gospel John 1:19-28

John proclaims Jesus the Redeemer Kinsman

Hymn of the Day 357

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Stanza 1: All Stanza 5: Men

Stanza 2: Women Stanza 6: All

Stanza 3: Men Stanza 7: All

Stanza 4: Women

Distribution Hymns

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” 352

“Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing” 737

“Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior” 619

Hymn to Depart 338

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Thanksgiving to God for generous support

Over the last year, the congregation established a capital improvements fund to set aside revenue to be used for major capital improvements. We received substantial gifts and have been setting aside money each month from the General Offerings for this fund. The Lord has richly blessed us in 2021, enabling us to fund the new HVAC system for the Academy, and in early 2022, we will be able to replace the furnaces and air conditioning for the Church. These are major expenses, and we give thanks that we have had the funding to make these repairs and improvements. As you can imagine, the capital improvements fund has been significantly depleted. As you are able, offerings to the capital improvements fund are always appreciated.